

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **“Washington State Patrol Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend Emphasis Patrol”**

The start of the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend is right around the corner and the Washington State Patrol is gearing up to make a difference with the hope of saving lives. The goal is to reduce the chances of injury and fatality collisions by focusing on DUI's, aggressive driving, speed and seatbelt usage. Double coverage will be in effect on certain days throughout this weekend. Troopers will also be working extra shifts, with funding provided by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WSTC).

These additional troopers are a part of the continuing efforts of the WSP and WTSC to educate the public on safety and enforce DUI laws in Washington State. Troopers hope to reduce the number of DUI and speed related collisions occurring on Washington roadways.

This time of year many people will be attending various holiday celebrations and events where alcohol may be served, troopers would like to remind everyone to please plan ahead for these events. Have designated drivers available or call a taxi or friend to avoid driving impaired. Troopers will be targeting impaired drivers and any assistance that the public can offer in keeping them from getting behind the wheel is greatly appreciated.

Citizens who witness impaired driving, dangerous speeding or aggressive driving should always dial 911. 911 cellular calls are answered by the Washington State Patrol. “The Washington State Patrol will take all necessary measures to ensure everyone traveling on state roadways has a safe and happy Thanksgiving weekend,” said WSP District Commander Captain Mike Depalma.

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